

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An optical pickup apparatus includes

first and light sources; an objective lens; a spherical aberration correcting optical unit; and a chromatic aberration correcting optical element which includes a diffractive surface on at least one of optical surfaces of the chromatic aberration correcting optical element such that a diffractive structure which is constructed by a plurality of ring-shaped zones separated by fine steps is formed on the diffractive surface, wherein the depth of steps along an optical axis is designed so that  $n_2$  which is a diffraction order of a diffracted ray having a largest diffraction efficiency among diffracted rays caused when the second light flux enters into the diffractive structure, is lower order than  $n_1$  which is a diffraction order of a diffracted ray having a largest diffraction efficiency among diffracted light rays caused when the second light flux enters into the diffractive structure.